[Shri M. M. Jacob]

as the Chairman may direct, seven Members from among the Members of the House to serve on the said Committee."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

MOTION FOR ELECTION TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): Madam, I move the following Motion:—

"That this House concurs in the recommendation of the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate seven members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Public Accounts of the Lok Sabha for the term ending on the 30th April, 1992, and do proceed to elect in such manner as the Chairman may direct, seven Members from among the Members of the House to serve on the said Committee."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

MOTION FOR ELECTION TO THE COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): Madam, I move the following Motion:—

"That this House resolves that the Rajya Sabha do join the Committee of both the House on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the term ending on the 30th April, 1992, and do proceed to elect, in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote, ten members from among the members of the House to serve on the said Committee."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now the Discussion on the Working of the Information and Broadcasting Ministry.

श्री प्रमोद महाजन (महाराष्ट्र) : उपसभापति महोदया, मैं एक महत्वपूर्ण विषय पर आपका ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूं . . . (**व्यवधान**)

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry): I am mentioning an important matter, Madam.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There should be at least one day when we start the business in a peaceful atmosphere.

RE NEED TO CELEBRATE THE GOLDEN JUBLIEE OF "QUIT INDIA" MOVEMENT

श्री प्रमोद महाजन (महाराष्ट्र) : महोदय यह बहुत ही राष्ट्रीय अपमान का विषय है, किसी एक व्यक्ति का नहीं है। इसलिए मैं केवल एक मिनट लेना चाहूंगा। यह राष्ट्रीय और सदन के अपमान का विषय है। आप मुझे केवल एक क्षण दीजिये। आपको याद होगा, सदन के पूर्व सत्र में अंतिम दिन मैंने "भारत छोड़ो" आन्दोलन की स्वर्ण जयन्ती मनाने की सरकार से प्रार्थना की थी। सारे सदन ने इसका समर्थन किया था। आपने भी समर्थन किया था। सारे दलों ने समर्थन किया था। सदन के इस सत्र में स्वाभाविक रूप से ब्यौरा जानने के लिए मैंने प्रश्न पूछा और कल अतारांकित प्रश्न का जो उत्तर मुझे मिला है उसको देखकर मैं हैरान हूं, दुखी हूं और चिन्तित हूं। सरकार अपने

उत्तर में कहती है कि "भारत छोड़ो आन्दोलन की स्वर्ण जयन्ती मनाने का सरकार का कोई विचार नहीं है । मानो मानव संसाधन मंत्रालय के संस्कृति विभाग में ऐसी घटना मनाने की कोई योजना नल है आश्चर्य कारक है, यह "भारत छोड़ो" आन्दोलन की अवहेलना है और स्वतंत्रता' के लिए जिन्होंने बलिदान दिया उन शहीदों का अपमान है । मैं सरकार से मांग करता हूं कि अभी यहां "भारत छोड़ो" आन्दोलन की स्वर्ण जयन्ती मनाने की घोषणा करें, भले ही ब्यौरा बाद में दे और यदि यह सरकार चुप रहेगी तो मैं आपसे और आपके द्वारा सदन से प्रार्थना करता हूं कि अपने स्वतंत्रता संग्राम के सेनानियों का अपमान करने वाली सरकार के विरुद्ध निन्दाव्यंजक प्रस्ताव पारित करे ...(**व्यवधान**) ।

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय (उत्तर प्रदेश) : महोदया, मेरी मांग है कि इस पर आधे घंटे की चर्चा की जाये ।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Leader of the House wants to say something. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA (West Bengal): The Government must apologise for the disrespect towards ... (*Interruptions*).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have identified the names. (*Interruptions*). Mr. Gurudas Das Gupta, please sit down. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: It is shameful ... (*Interruptions*).

श्री जगेश देसाई (महाराष्ट्र) : यह गवनमेंट का काम करने का क्या तरीका है ? स्वतंत्रता आंदोलन में जिन लोगों ने देश के लिए जान दी, उनका यह अपमान है । इसलिये सरकार को 15 अगस्त को जो करना है ...

उपसभापति : 9 अगस्त को ।... (**व्यवधान**)...

डा० बापू कालदाते (महाराष्ट्र) : महोदया, मैं आपको याद दिलाना चाहता हूं कि उस समय आपने खुद कहा था कि इस बात को मैं सरकार के ध्यान में लाऊंगी कि यह स्वर्ण महोत्सव सरकार की तरफ से भी होना चाहिये । लेकिन मुझे पता नहीं लग रहा है कि आपके कहने के बावजूद यह जवाब कैसे आया ।

डा० रत्नाकर पाण्डेय (उत्तर प्रदेश) : महोदया, इसी संदर्भ मे मैं कह रहा हूं । ...(**व्यवधान**)...महोदया, आज मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय की कंसलटेटिव कमेटी की बैठक दो बजे बुलाई गई है ...(**व्यवधान**) ...

उपसभापति : आप बैठिये ।

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA (Rajasthan): I just want to add for the information that the answer is not even correct because in part 'C' the Government has said that there is no scheme in the Department of Culture to celebrate such events. Madam, we have recently celebrated 40 years of independence on a large scale. Surely, some scheme is there. This kind of bureaucratic reply that there is no scheme to celebrate such events is as if it is somebody's birthday. It is a mindless reply. (*Interruptions*).

डा० रत्नाकर पाण्डेय : माननीय महोदया .....

उपसभापति : एक मिनट पान्डेय जी आपको मैंने सुन लिया ..(**व्यवधान**)... इस संदर्भ में मैं आपको बोलने दूंगी ।

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI (Maharashtra): Madam, I remember this thing and your direction and perhaps the new Government has taken over, I thank the Home Minister.....

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Kulkarni, it was in this Session.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: I say, that might have taken some time. Perhaps, the Leader of the House will explain and we all want this should be celebrated.

डा० रत्नाकर पाण्डेय : महोदया, इसी संदर्भ में मुझे बोलना है । आज मानव संसाधन मंत्रालय की सलाहकार समिति की बैठक दो बजे बुलाई गई है ... (**व्यवधान**)...

उपसभापति : लीडर आफ़ दि हाउस को बोलने दीजिये ।.. (**व्यवधान**) .. बैठिये ।

डा० रत्नाकर पाण्डेय मैं उस कमेटी का सदस्य होने के नाते ... (**व्यवधान**)...

उपसभापति : बैठिये ।

THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): I am extremely sorry that this kind of reply.... (*Interruptions*).

उपसभापति : जो मामले कंसलटेटिव कमेटी में उठाये जाते हैं, उठाये जायेंगे और उठाये गये हैं, उन मामलों की हाउस में चर्चा नहीं होती । इसलिये आप अपने लेबल पर जो भी करना चाहें करिये । मगर जो सरकार की तरफ से जवाब रहा है वह सुन लीजिये ।

डा० रत्नाकर पाण्डेय : महोदया, मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं ...

उपसभापति : पाण्डेय जी, मुझे एक बात कहने दीजिये । जो कानून है, जो परम्परा है, कृपया उन्हें न तोड़ें तो बहतर रहेगा । जो मामले आप उठाना चाहते हैं जरूर उठायें, कोई मना नहीं कर रहा है, मगर कंसलटेटिव कमेटी के मसले हाउस में बोले नहीं जाते ।

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: I am extremely sorry that this kind of reply has come from the Ministry of Human Resource Development. I will request the Hon. Minister of Human Resource Development to kindly go into this matter again and see that a prpoer reply is given and Golden Jubliee is celebrated.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Chavan, on that day some other issues were also taken up. I would like the entire thing to be taken up. There were certain other recommendations...

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: I will convey the whole thing to him.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV (Maharashtra): What has happened to Bharat Ratna Award to Abul Kalam Azad?

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Madam, let him go through the entire discussion on the subject. You go through the entire discussion. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry): This is a very serious matter. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: The Government has already taken a decision on the award of Bharat Ratna. I request the ... (*Interruptions*) I request the hon. Minister to take some action on it.

उपसभापति : होम मिनिस्टर साहब ने आश्वासन दिया है वह जरूर करेंगे

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: There was a serious charge levelled against the President of Sri Lanka by the then Minister, Athulathmudali stating that at the time when fight was going on between the LTTE and the IPKF, the Sri Lankan Government supplied weapons to the LTTE in a clandestine manner to defeat the peace-keeping process that was initiated by our late leader, Shri Rajiv Gandhi and the then Presdent, Shri Jayewardene. This is a very serious matter. Now the Sri Lankan authorities are being questioned by the Minister, Shri Athulathmudali, and he says, the Defence Minister, Mr. Vijayaratane....

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have not allowed you to make this special mention. Don't go ahead with making statements.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: This was the information given by the then Defence Minister. I would like to know whether it is true. I want the Defence

Minister and also the Minister for External Affairs to make a statement before the House so that we are able to know the correct position.

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज (हरियाणा) : मेरा प्वाइंट आफ़ आर्डर है ।

उपसभापति : कोई बिजनेस हो नहीं है, प्वाइंट आफ़ आर्डर काहे पर है ?

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज : आप यह कह रही है कि मिनिस्टर साहब को रिप्लाई देना है । मेरा व्यवस्था का प्रश्न यह है कि आज की कार्यविलि में जो चीजें रखी गई हैं उसमें नियम 180 के तहत अविलम्बनीय लोक महत्व का विषय भी रखा गया है। नियम180 का उपनियम 5 यह कहता है कि :-

> "The proposed matter shall be raised after the questions and the laying of papers, if any, on the Table and before any other item in the list of business is taken up and at no other time during the sitting of the Council."

यह नियम मेंडेटरी है। यह इस प्रावधान करता है कि जिस दिन नियम 180 के तहत कोई ऐसा विषय लगा हो तो कार्यविलि में तो क्वेचंस के बाद सबसे पहले वह विषय लिया जाएगा और किसी भी विषय को प्रिसिडेंस नहीं दिया जाएगा लेकन आप मिनिस्टर साहब को बुला रही है ; मेरा आपसे यह कहना है कि पहले इस विषय को आप लीजिये यह रूल मेंडेटरी है ।

उपसभापति : आप जरा स्थान ग्रहण करेंगी ।

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज : मैं आसन ग्रहण करूंगी ।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: जो भी आपकी जगह है आप वहां बैठ जाइये । कल Mr. Masodkar who was presiding in the House, took the sense of the House that the Minister will reply after the Question Hour, and if the House so decides, they can overrule any other rule. It was the decision of the entire House, and I have to abide by it.

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज : कौन से समय यह विषय आ रहा है, यह हाउस को पता नहीं था ।

उपसभापति : हाउस को पता था ।

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज : आप बेशक हाउस की सेंस ले लीजिये । पहले यह विषय उठेगा फिर कोई जवाब आएगा ।

उपसभापति : यह नहीं है, उन्होंने हाउस के कहा था । यह डिसिजन था । यह पता था कि यह विषय भी आ रहा है ।

श्री प्रमोद महाजन : यह हाउस को कैसे पता चला कि आज के आर्डर पेपर में यह विषय है ? कुछ लोग ऐसे है जिनको कल का आर्डर पेपर आज ही पता चलता है ।

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज : आप सेंस ले लीजिये ।

उपसभापति : एक दफा जब हाउस में कोई निर्णय कंसेस से ले लिया जाता है, we abide by it. There are certain rules and conventons. So, we abide by it.

श्री प्रमोद महाजन : आप निर्णय बदल सकती हैं । मुझे लगता है कि अगर इस प्रकार निर्णय लेंगे तो एक नयी प्रथा होगी । सरकार तो हमेशा बोलती रहती है। सदस्यों के बोलने के लिए यह ध्यानाकर्षण प्रस्ताव होता है । उसको यदि पीछे रखेंगे तो यह सदस्यों के अधिकारों पर आक्रमण होगा । सरकार का भाषण तो बाद में भी हो सकता है ।

उपसभापति : एक बात मैं आपको बताऊं कि अगर किसी प्रिजाइडिंग आफिसर ने कल कोई निर्णय हाउस की कंसेस से ले लिया है । I will abide by it. It has to be followed.

मंत्री जी जवाब दे रहे हैं वह आप लोगों के ही सवालों के जवाब हैं ।

श्री प्रमोद महाजन : ऐसा हो ही नहीं सकता । कल और आज में बहुत अंतर है । अगर परिस्थितियों में अंतर हुआ तो ...

उपसभापति : आप बैठ जाइये ।

श्री प्रमोद महाजन : ऐसे कैसे बैठ जाऊं । आप नियम को नहीं छोड़ सकती हैं । आप नियम कैसे छोड़ सकती हैं ।

उपसभापति : सब लोगों ने डिमांड किया था ।

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर (उत्तर प्रदेश) : यदि मंत्री जी को समय हो और उनको तकलीफ न हो तो कालिंग अटेंशन लेने के बाद वे जवाब दे दें । लेकिन यदि उन्हें असुविधा है तो कालिंग अटेंशन... (**व्यवधान**)

उपसभापति : पूरे हाऊस का जो डिसिजन है, मैं उसको ओवर-रूल नहीं कर सकती । Otherwise I will take the sense of the House again. आधे घंटे में जवाब खत्म हो जाएगा । तब हम कालिंग अटेंशन ले लेंगे । मंत्रीजी आप बोलिये ।

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : यदि मंत्री जी को कोई असुविधा है तो बात अलग है ।

SHRIMATI MIRA DAS (Orissa): चेयरमैन साहब ने परमिशन दे दी है । In a matter of urgency, I want to bring a very important issue to the notice of this House. I want to know from the Government whether it is only responsible for saving the lives of VVIPs and their relatives from the kidnappers. The Government has not shown the same urgency in securing the release of eight officers of ONGC who have been kidnapped by the ULFA activists, which it has displayed while securing the release of the Executive Director of the Indian Oil Corporation from the Kashmir militants recently. Mr. Chittaranja Mohanty, a Deputy Superintendent Engineer with ONGC has been kidnapp within 20 days of his joining duty Jorhat. Although two months hav elapsed, Mrs. Sunita Mohanty, wife Mr. Mohanty has not received any new of her husband neither from the Gc vernment nor from the media. She anxiously awaiting the news of he husband.... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Madam What have you decided on our point The sense of the House is not enough You will have to suspend the rule. Ho can the sense of the House decide th proceedings?

उपसभापति : मैं तो सुन रही हूं । दूसरे मुझे नहीं सुनने दे रहे हैं ।

SHRIMATI MIRA DAS: I want t know from the Government whether th lives of these kidnapped persons are les valuable than the lives of the VVIPs.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Actuall I should not permit this also. Even, should not have permitted for makin any zero hour, as you call it. Shall remove it from the record and go ahea with the Calling Attention?

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: It i your authority.

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM (Andhra Pradesh): Madam, my submission is that having permitted the hon. Member to mention about the people who have been kidnapped by the ULFA, you should hear our opinions also.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. I am not permitting any discussion.

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: The Home Ministry is not coming forward with any solutions.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You can take this a little later, but not now.

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: I have seen in the newspaper the agony of the wife of one of the kidnapped officials. It is a pathetic affair.

SHRIMATI MIRA DAS: There is no news either from the Government side or from the media. She has also requested the Governor of Assam to give any news of her husband. So for, the Government is silent in this regard. This shows the callousness of the Government.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. You have made your point. I am sure the Government would take action. Both the Ministers of Home Affairs are here. आप बैठ जाइये । हो गया । आपकी बात सुन ली गयी है... (व्यवधान)

अगर आप चुप होएंगे तो मैं पूछूंगी ... (व्यवधान)

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Let the Home Minister react on this.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let her sit down. She can't go on... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASANT KUMAR DAS (Orissa): It is a very serious matter.

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA (Assam): The process is on. Let us not complicate the matter further by discussing it here. It will not serve any purpose. I would request hon. Members. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: I would like to know whether the Government is seized of this matter or not (*Interruptions*) Is the Government making any efforts to get these people released? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: We should not complicate the matter further. (*Interruptions*) We are also concerned. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: We understand that there is some sort of an understanding between the Assam Government and the ULFA. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASANT KUMAR DAS: We do not know whether Mr. Mohanty is alive or not. This is a very serious matter. (*Interruptions*) The people in Orissa are agitated. Two months have gone by. The wife of the kidnapped official has no information whether he is alive or not. (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We will now take up further discussion on the working of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Madam, what about our point? How can you take this up unless you suspend the rule?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will take the sense of the House in this respect. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: No question of the sense of the House. We have to work according to the rules. The relevant rule has been quoted. You first suspend the rule and then do whatever you like.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am going ahead. I take the sense of the House whether the rule can be suspended and we go ahead. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Somebody has to move a motion. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Under rule 267, somebody has to move a motion. (*Interruptions*)

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर: मैडम आपका आदेश सर आंखों पर है, लेकिन यहां की परम्परा मत बिगाड़िये ।... (व्यवधान) आप रूल सस्पेंड करने का मोशन ले आइये, हम कर देंगे । फिर भी आप गलत परम्परा मत डालिये । रूल का इंटरप्रेटेशन, आप चेयर पर हो या कोई भी हो, आर्बिट्रेरी तरीके से नहीं कर सकते ।... (व्यवधान)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have no objection taking any Business. I will call Mr. Kesri and we will take up the Calling-Attention, if that is the sense of the House.

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : आप रूल सस्पेंड करा दीजिए। ...(**व्यवधान**) आप एक मोशन मूव करवा कर रूल सस्पेंड करवा दीजिए। ...(**व्यवधान**)

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Madam, on a point of order. In today's Agenda, after 'Papers to be laid on the Table' and other Motions, further discussion on the working of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is listed. Then, the Calling-Attention is there. (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Jagesh Desai, please sit down. That is exactly the point. But a point has been raised that according to the rules, Calling-Atention should be the first item after the Question Hour and the laying of the Papers. In fact, whatever everybody else has spoken, whether it is ULFA or it is Shri Lanka or any other matter, should not have been raised.

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: That is Zero Hour. (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is not Zero Hour. (*Interruptions*) A very senior Member is telling that it is Zero Hour.

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: It is the convention of the House, whether it is under the rules or not.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: A very senior Member says 'Zero' Hour. Where is Zero? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: In that case, why is the item—further discussion on the working of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting—shown first in the Agenda? (*Interruptions*).

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: We cannot go by the Agenda printed by the Secretariat. We have to work according to the rule.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: But yesterday, the sense of the House was taken. This is binding on all of us. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL (Gujarat): It was a ruling.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It was not a ruling. Yesterday, when Mr. Masodkar was in the Chair, some Members requested for the adjournment of the House and it was the sense of the House which he announced. He said that if the Members agree to have the reply tomorrow, it could be after the Question Hour. So, it was not a ruling. He took the sense of the House and announced. It was not his decision. Do not put it on the Chair.

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय : उस समय जानकारी नहीं थी । उस समय किसी मैंबर को जानकारी नहीं थी, एजेंडा पेपर आज सर्कुलेट हुआ है ।

श्री प्रमोद महाजन : लेकिन चेयर को मालूम था कि आज कालिंग अटेंशन है ।...(**व्यवधान**)

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE (Maharashtra): Madam, I have to make a submission.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What is it ?

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: I appeal to the responsible Members of the Opposition that it is absolutely essential that the House must be considered supreme. Rules or no rules, once a decision is taken, it is sacrosanct and it will be a very wrong tradition if we were to over-rule our own decision. I entirely agree that we should not lightly brush aside the rule, but there have been occasions times out of number, not dozens but hundreds, when a sense of the House has been taken. (*Interruptions*) Bear with me, Mr. Mathur. I do agree with the validity of the point raised by the hon. Member, Mrs. Swaraj, that, yes, a rule has to be respected and the House must work according to the rules. Most of the problems arise because we do not function according to the rules. Rules are sacrosanct but exceptions are always there. It has a tradition of this House that where the rules stand in

between the wishes of the House, for the sake of convenience a large many times this House has taken...(Interruptions). I urge upon two things. (Interruptions). Let me complete. Mr. Swell. (*Interruptons*). This again is a violation of rules. I have got the permission to speak.

I want to submit that there has not been a single instance where such a decision has been taken. (*Interruptions*). No, never has it happened. In fact, in such cases a sense of the House is taken only when a problem of convenience is sought to be solved. So, firstly I urge upon the hon. Members not to belittle their own decision. Secondly, in the Business Advisory Committee you were also present, you are privy to that decision. Mr. Mathur was present and he is privy to that decision that the discussion will be finished in one day's time. Everyone is privy to this decision but the discussion has been going on for so many days. So, let us extend some courtesy to the Minister. Let us finish this. Otherwise, if that decision has to be reversed, let the sense of the House be taken now.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Kulkarni.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Madam, I support Mr. Salve's contention. In this House the rules were there, they have been there for the last so many years. Rules are not such that they would forbid us from taking a decision on the basis of a sensible opinion of the entire House. Yesterday, when the discussion was going on, many Members were yet to speak. The Minister was ready to reply but as a matter of courtesy it was decided that tomorrow the first item after the Question Hour would be the Minister's reply. At that point of time nobody imagined or even dreamt that a Call Attention had been admitted. (*Interruptions*). Just wait. Now, Madam, once a decision is taken, we should respect that decision. That is the convention in this House. My friend, for Heaven's sake do not make an issue of this. (*Interruptions*). Heavens are not going to fall if the Calling Attention is discussed at 2.30 and replied to. The point is, we should go through it because it is on the agenda.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Gurupadaswamy, do you want to say something?...(*Interruptions*)...By this time the Minister would have finished his reply. With all the controversy we raised, we wasted the precious time of the House on such matter. We could have easily taken a decision ourselves.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Don't say this is a controversy...(*Interruptions*)..

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : मैं तो कह रहा था, आप उसी वक्त रूल्स सस्पेंड कर देतीं तो प्राब्लम हल हो जाती । ...(व्यवधान)

उपसभापति : मैं तो कह रही हूं सस्पेंड करो ।

I am taking the sense of the House, Mr. Mathur. I take the sense of the House again.

SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: Yes, take it.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I take the sense of the House again; Do you want to discuss the Calling Attention or do you want to have ther eply?...(*Interruptions*)

SHIR KAMAL MORARKA: Madam, I am on a point of order...(*Interruptions*).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You have to suspend the rule...(*Interruptions*).

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: The House is supreme. Let the House move a resolution...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: Madam, I fervently plead with the BJP Members not to break a very important convention and tradition....(*Interruptions*)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Gurupadaswamy....(*Interruptions*). I am very happy because from tomorrow onwards I am going to strictly abide by the rules.

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Madam, don't threaten us....(*Interruptions*)...

THE DEPUTY: CHAIRMAN: I am not threatening. It is happiness.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Madam, it is a very good decision which you have taken.

SHRI SIKANDER BHAKHT (Madhya Pradesh): What abuot the rest of the day, Madam ?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Is abiding by rules "threatening" ?

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Let us start from today, Madam.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I would be the happiest person.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY (Uttar Pradesh): Madam Deputy Chairman, I did not want to intervene at all, but since the matter has been raised rather in a column and emotions have also been roused on this issue, I thought I should say a few words.

Firstly, let me say, let us not take very rigid positions—it can cut both ways. Yesterday I was here when the matter was raised and we didn't know that this had to come immediately after the Question Hour. It was not in our mind at that time—that is true—but we thought the Minister could reply the next day after the Question Hour. So this matter was not considered—that is a fact. But a decision was taken by the House that the reply should be after the Question Hour. That is one part.

The second thing I would like to say is, it is not as if we are not having Calling Attention Motions discussed later on in the day. There are any number of instances when Calling Attention Motions were taken up in the afternoon, even in the evening. That also happened. I was a party to that. I had agreed, also as the Leader of the Opposition, to take up these in the afternoons also. But now the question is being raised that the rules have got to be followed. I am one with my friends that rules should be followed as far as possible. The difficulty is, yesterday, knowingly or unknowingly, we had taken a decision that the Minister should reply to the debate after the Question Hour. But this should not make a precedent; this should not be a precedent. I beg of my colleagues here that this matter can be taken up soon after the reply because we should not go against the wishes of the House against what the House has decided. ...(*Interruptions*)...We should not want to compromise the decision of the House. At the same time, we should not want to flout the Rules of Procedure. It is true that this was not thought of yesterday—that is a fact—and that is a folly. So, having done that, let us not compromise the position of the House itself. We are all Members of the House. So, let us have the reply now. But it should not create a precedent. I go with the Chair that in future as far as possible, unless the whole House wishes otherwise, we should follow the procedure.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: No, Madam. It is a matter of the choice of a subject between the reply of the Minister and atrocities on the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Don't politicise the issue. No, no. Don't politicise like this. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: It is not correct. This has been decided by the Business Advisory Committee. (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Just one minute. I tell you, in my opinion anything discussed in this House at any point of time, has its own importance. Do you mean that if you speak at the tag end of the day, your speech has no meaning? It is not that. No. Anything spoken in this House at any time has its importance. So, please don't make this issue that because we are taking up the reply of the Minister now by the sense of the House it means that the discussion on the Scheduled Castes is in a way lower than the Minister's reply. No, please. I don't agree with this.

SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: Then, Madam, let it be moved that the rule be suspended.

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): Don't politicise it. I am prepared here for this.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now I take the sense of the House: Shall we take the reply of the Minister or the Calling Attention?

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: It is not a question of the sense of the House. Somebody has to move a motion to suspend the rule. Let the Government move the motion. We do not object to it.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: The sense of the House has been taken a number of times, Madam.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The sense of the House was taken yesterday to hear the Minister's reply, and in the same manner I take the sense of the House now. To me the House is supreme. It is the House which makes the Rules. Nobody else makes the Rules. The Government does not make the Rules.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Let us not divide the House. (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The House is supreme.

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: You cannot suspend the Rules by a sense of the House. (*Isterruptions*)

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: By a sense of the House what business should be taken up... (*Interruptions*).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am not suspending the Rules. (*Interruptions*) Just a minute, please.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: There is no question of moving a motion. Sense of the House is the supreme right of the House.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am telling one thing. Don't try to put words into my mouth. I did not say, "suspension of the Rules."

Salve Saheb, one minute.

I said, I would take the sense of the House what they want, whether they want the reply of the Minister or they want the Calling Attention now. I did not say "suspension of the Rules." So, don't put words into my mouth. (*Interruptions*) Wait a minute. Yes,

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: On this I want to say one thing, Madam. The decision of the House has been taken yesterday evening. It was a unanimous decision that there should be reply after the Question Hour. It may be wrong.

SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: I do not know why he is... (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please don't interrupt. He is a senior Member of this House. Let him make his point. You are not the only one in this House. He has a right to make his point.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: I respectfully appeal to Members.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: This is not the first time that a sense has been taken. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Let us not divide the House. Let us not flout the decision taken by the House unanimously yesterday.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: There is no need to take a sense of the House.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: Madam, the sense of the House is that there is no need to take a sense again (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Already the sense has been taken. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: That would be nonsense. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH (West Bengal): This is an atrocity on the House.

DR. NAGEN SAIKIA Assam): Madras, before the Minister speaks,...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Is there again any confusion?

DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: I want to make a relevant point.

Madam, I want to know from the Minister:

[Dr. Nagen Saikia]

Whether the persons who cover Rajya Sabha proceedings for the "Sansad Samachar" and the "Parliament News" Bulletins, are Government employees or they are entrusted with it on a contract basis;

whether they are subjected to undergo some refresher course;

whether they know the Rules of the House... (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Order please.

DR. NAGEN SAIKIA:...whether they know the names of the Members, the names of the parties to which they are affiliated. (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: This is in relation to that. He wants a reply to that.

DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: If not, on what basis are they entrusted with the responsibility to put it in the most responsible way? It is not a matter of privilege if the person or persons who provide the Parliament proceedings changes or change the party name, the title of the Member and present it wrongly? I want a specific reply from the Minister.

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Madam, this is not on the agenda. He cannot speak on the I. and B. Ministry.

DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: This is on the I. and B. Ministry.

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: My point is the subject has not yet been taken up. We are just now on Scheduled Castes atrocities.

DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: No, this is on the I. & B. Ministry and I want to know the reply from the hon. Minister.

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: No. The subject has not yet been taken up. You are committing atrocities on us now. Madam, you kindly listen to my point of order. I want to get it included in the records irrespective of whatever decision you take.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There is no point of order. It is already on the Agenda.

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Madam, can't I raise a point of order?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: But what is it on which you want to raise your point of order?

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Madam, you have already given your ruling. You should be serious on this. The Minister has been asked to speak. Why should be now be allowed to interrupt?

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Madam, are you not allowing my point of order? I want to put it on record. (*Interruptions*)

DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: Madam, I want to know one thing from the hon. Minister.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am not recording everything. (*Interruptions*)

DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: Last night in both the bulletins my name was wrongly announced. My party's name was also wrongly announced. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Madam, you are not allowing me to raise my point of order. (*Interruptions*) Madam, what you are doing is illegal.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: All right. You file a case against me on illegality.

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Madam, you are conducting the House against the rule. You please record it. That is all.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am in a position to suspend the rules. All right, let it go on record. I want any word said by the hon. Member to go on record. Let the people know what the Member talked to the Chair with all the cooperation. I am very happy. I want it to be recorded and reported in the Press. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: Mr. Morarka is an eminent and intelligent Member. He has cast aspersions on her saying that

she is running the House illegally. Who is he to sit in judgment? He is nobody to sit in judgment here.

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: What I want to say is that you are not allowing me to raise my point of order. The point of order has to get precedence over everything else.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: I am not against the point of order. I am against the comment that he made and I quote. He said: "You are conducting the proceedings illegally." That is highly unfair and improper.

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: I am allowing this comment to go on record. I want it to be reported in the Press also. All right.

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: I am saying this with all responsibility and I repeat that I want it to go on record. Every sentence of it. (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I want it to go on record. Did I say it should not go on record? I want it to go on record. Why are you agitating? I am willingly allowing it to go on record. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Madam, an illegal thing cannot become legal by a majority decision.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: Madam, the question is who decides illegality. Members can't decide. The Supreme Court decides on many decisions. They reverse their own decisions. But is it not the law of the land that once they decide that decision becomes final? Legality is to be determined by the Chair and not by the Member. You better remember that.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He is quoting lot of rules. Let him read the rule book. Now, Mr. Minister. (*Interruptions*) Now, I am allowing anything. Anybody now speaking without my permission will not go on record. (*Interruptions*) Mathur Sahib, I am not allowing you. I am not discussing anything further. Please take your seat. (*Interruptions*) I am not permitting you too. Nothing is going on record now, except the Minister's reply. (*Interruptions*) Don't waste time. Mr. Minister, you may speak. You don't have to reply because I have not permitted him now.

DISCUSSION ON THE WORKING OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING—Contd.

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): For a few days, the hon. Members on both sides made valuable contributions on this very important subject about the functioning of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. Madam, I am grateful to you and to the hon. Members for allowing me to reply to the debate even before other matters are taken up. I am going to reply to the very important points raised by the hon. Members. At this juncture this Department is considering various important issues. I am grateful because this House has decided that this is the first subject matter to be discussed, and like a brainstorming type the entire functioning of my Minister will be discussed. I have not only taken a note of their entire suggestions personally but also the transcript copies of each Member's points are being scrutinised so that while deliberating upon very important issues they could be taken into consideration.

The first issue which most of the Members argued is about the commonly called term "Privatisation of Doordarshan" or flowing from the main subject as to what is the position of the Prasar Bharati Act. Madam, after this Government took over I went into the Department; and naturally this is the most important subject to be considered by us. In the election manifesto of my party, Congress (I) we have made it abundantly clear to the people about it. So whatever positive thing has been assured to the people, relying upon it, they have voted us to power and that should be given effect to, not only what is written there but also in spirit and inten. I may be allowed to quote from